

literacy programmes. In addition, financial assistance is provided to States for modernization of Madrasas and Makhtabs to ensure students of these institutions to acquire education comparable to national educational system.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

†1206. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with regard to the approval of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas such development blocks which are educationally backward are being left only on this ground that there is less gender gap;

(b) whether attention is not being paid to this fact that educational level of girls is lower in that development blocks; and

(c) the reasons for not including such blocks which are educationally lower completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The criterion for identification of Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) for the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, is blocks where the female rural literacy is below the national average and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The rationale is to prioritize blocks where gender discrimination is more.

New courses in Banaras Hindu University

1207. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Banaras Hindu University has sent a proposal to Government with regard to its future expansion and introduction of new courses;

(b) whether it is a fact that this expansion will benefit around four States in the vicinity;

(c) if so, what is the proposal and how much amount has been requested by the university; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.